

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ottawa Library

AND/OR COMMON

Carnegie Free Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5th and Main

CITY, TOWN

Ottawa

VICINITY OF

No. 3, Larry Winn

STATE

Kansas

CODE
20

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: Library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Ottawa

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Ottawa

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

66067

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Franklin County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Ottawa

STATE

Kansas

66067

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation Survey

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Ks. State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE
Kansas

66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Carnegie Free Library in Ottawa is a rectangular two-story yellow brick building. It is located in the northwest corner of the city park. A shallow two-story temple portico frames the main entrance on the west. A one-story semi-circular projection at the east serves as an extension of the main reading room.

A raised foundation capped by a cut stone watertable supports the brick walls. The foundation is built of coursed, rough-pitched limestone. The fenestration is regular with the window openings accentuated by raised brick surrounds above stone sills. The hip roof is covered by standing seam metal roofing which has been painted red.

On the exterior, classical detailing is evident in the entrance portico and the wall cornice. Original detailing also remains in the interior, including wood columns and trim in the reading room.

Alterations

Generally, the historic integrity of this building is excellent. Only minor features have been changed. In 1972 the "Carnegie Free Library" sign was replaced. The new sign is located on the lower frieze rather than above the columns. Anodized aluminum storm windows have been added. Alterations to the main stairway and other interior rooms include the introduction of acoustical ceiling tile and modern decorative treatments.

B SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
300-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

ECIFIC DATES 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George P. Washburn

ATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Carnegie Free Library in Ottawa, through its association with Andrew Carnegie's attempt to promote cultural enrichment, represents an important aspect of American history at the turn of the twentieth century. Characteristic of the taste in design during this period for classically detailed civic structures, the building is also a late example of the work of Kansas architect George P. Washburn.

A \$15,000 grant from Carnegie financed the construction of the library. Mrs. R. A. Wasson and Mrs. R. S. Black had solicited the gift in 1902 on behalf of the Ottawa Library Association which had been active since 1873. In accordance with Carnegie's customary procedure when making such gifts, the city had to agree to provide a site and accept the obligation of spending annually an amount equal to 10% of the gift for maintaining the library before the grant was advanced.

The city proposed to erect the building in the city park. Because of a deed restriction which stipulated that any change in use must have unanimous consent, it was necessary to gain written approval for the proposed library from all owners of property adjacent to the park.

Grants from the Carnegie Corporation for libraries were awarded as early as 1886, but the number of donations increased dramatically from 1898 to a peak in 1903 when the Ottawa Library was built. Carnegie's purpose was to contribute to civic advancement through cultural enrichment. His philanthropy (finally amounting to \$56 million for 2,509 libraries) was an impressive and successful attempt to affect American life on a broad scale. The program ended in 1917. Eventually, there were 59 Carnegie libraries in Kansas. As late as 1967, forty-four were still in use.

The Ottawa Library opened in the fall of 1903. It was designed by the office of George P. Washburn (an Ottawa resident) in what was termed at the time as a "free classical" style. Because of this and the constraints of a modest budget, the building is detailed simply. A feature of this design which may reflect Washburn's hand is the distinctive hemicycle. The usual Carnegie Library had a simple rectangular plan.

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In its first year of operation, the library circulated 24,434 books. For some time after its opening, however, the library leased extra rooms to women's clubs, doctors, and others.

Early in 1979, a library advisory committee called for the construction of a new, larger facility for Ottawa. The report recommended preservation of the original building, but with an alternative use.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE AMENDMENT.

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Von Achen, Kurt, "Lives and Works of Early Kansas Architects," thesis, M. Arch.
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Ottawa Herald. October 27 and 28, 1903.

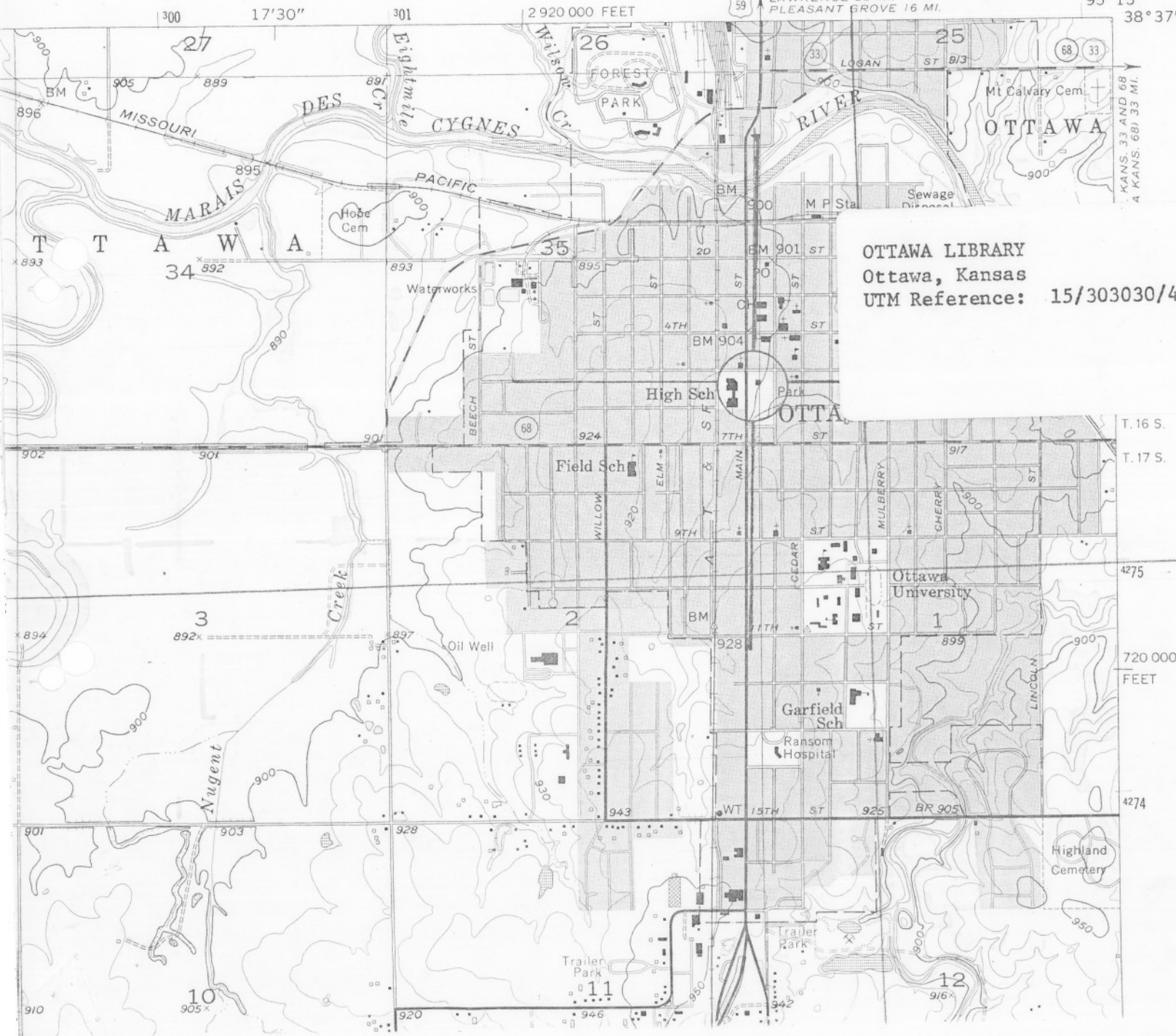
Reflections of Franklin County and Chatauqua Days. Ottawa, KS. (1961).

OTTAWA SOUTH QUADRANGLE
KANSAS—FRANKLIN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

696111 NW
(LE LOUP)

59 LAWRENCE 25 MI.
PLEASANT GROVE 16 MI.

95° 15'
38° 37' 30"



OTTAWA LIBRARY
Ottawa, Kansas
UTM Reference: 15/303030/4275080

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see the attached sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Ottawa South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 3030 4275080
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property is approximately one-half acre in size; it is located in the northwest corner of Block 111, original plat of Ottawa, also known as City Park. Beginning at the southeast corner of Fifth & Main Streets, the boundary follows Fifth Street east approximately 110 yards, then south 110 yards, then west 110 yards to Main Street.

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Julie A. Wortman, Architectural Historian
Dale Nimz, Historic Preservation Department

ORGANIZATION

Ks. State Historical Society

DATE

10-1-80

STREET & NUMBER

120 West 10th

TELEPHONE

913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Joseph W. Shell

TITLE

Executive Director, Ks. State Historical Society

DATE

10-14-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION